I. AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-18 without prejudice or disclaimer. In addition, please add claims 19-68:

Claims 1-18 (Cancelled).

19. (Original) An apparatus adapted for mounting on a thorax of a patient, for assisting in the application of CPR to the patient, comprising:

    (a) a means to protect the thorax of the patient mounted on the thorax including a means to stabilize a means for applying compressions;

    (b) the means for applying compressions connected with the stabilizing means;

    (c) a means for maintaining a compression force operably connected with the means for applying compressions;

    (d) a dorsal or back strap having two ends connected around the thorax and to the means for applying compressions; and

    (e) a means to expand the chest beyond a normal diastole relaxation position.

20. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 19 wherein said means to protect the thorax comprises a chest positioner or chest pad.

21. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 19 wherein said stabilizing means is a socket having a base and four sidewalls.

22. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 19 wherein said means to expand the chest comprises a recoil spring connected to the means for applying compressions and connected to the dorsal or back strap.

23. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 19 further including a means for applying abdomen compression to an abdomen of the body.

24. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 19 further including a connector attached between the means for applying compressions and the dorsal or back strap wherein the connector includes a means for indicating a tension of the dorsal or back strap.

25. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 19 wherein the means for applying compressions comprises a motor driven compression device.

26. (Original) The apparatus of claim 19 further comprising a means for maintaining a preferred stroke rate operably connected with the means for applying compressions.

27. (Original) An apparatus for assisting with the administration of CPR to a patient comprising:

(a) a chest positioner unit conformable to the shape of a patient's chest to position the apparatus on the sternum;

(b) a strap having two ends for wrapping around the chest;

(c) a chest compression device connected with the chest positioner unit, said device having arms connected with the device and extending laterally from each side of the device, each said arm having a first end pivotally connected with the device and a second end connected with one end of said strap; and

(d) a control assembly operably connected with the chest compression device to actuate the chest compression device to deliver chest compressions at a preferred force.

28. (Original) The apparatus of claim 27 wherein the chest positioner unit comprises:

(a) a sternal pad that rests on the sternum of the patient;

(b) a socket for connecting with the chest compression device; and

(c) an elastic sheet having dimensions larger than the sternal pad or the socket and mounted between the sternal pad and the socket.

29. (Original) The apparatus of claim 27 wherein the chest positioner unit is radiolucent.

30. (Original) The apparatus of claim 27 wherein the chest positioner unit is electrically insulating.

31. (Original) The apparatus of claim 27 wherein the chest compression device is electrically actuated by the control assembly.

32. (Original) The apparatus of claim 27 wherein electrical actuation of the chest compression device moves the arms of the device from a rest position to an active position causing the strap wrapped around the chest of the patient to tighten and the chest compression device to apply a downward force to deliver an effective chest compression.

33. (Original) The apparatus of claim 27 wherein the chest compression device contains a pressure sensor.

34. (Original) The apparatus of claim 27 wherein the control assembly further actuates the chest compression device to deliver chest compressions at a preferred stroke rate.

35. (Original) The apparatus of claim 27 wherein the strap contains a rigid central section located at the back of the patient when the apparatus is employed.

36. (Original) The apparatus of claim 27 wherein the strap is connected with the chest compression device using tension-indicating hooks.

37. (Original) The apparatus of claim 27 further comprising a recoil spring for decompressing the chest beyond normal diastole position.

38. (Original) The apparatus of claim 37 wherein the recoil spring has a first end and a second end where the first end is connected with the rigid central section of the strap and the second end is connected with the chest compression device.

39. (Original) An apparatus for assisting with the administration of CPR to a patient comprising:

(a) a chest positioner unit conformable to the shape of a patient's chest to position the apparatus on the sternum;

(b) a strap having two ends for wrapping around the chest;

(c) a chest compression device connected with the chest positioner unit, said device having arms connected with the device and extending laterally from each side of the device, each said arm having a first end pivotally connected with the device and a second end connected with one end of said strap; and

(d) a control assembly operably connected with the chest compression device to actuate the chest compression device to deliver chest compressions at a preferred force and a preferred stroke rate.

wherein the force of said compressions is substantially downward into the chest.

40. (Original) An apparatus for administering CPR to a patient comprising:

(a) a chest device for resting on the chest of the patient;

(b) a chest compression device removably connected with the chest device; and

(c) a control assembly operably connected with the chest compression device to actuate the chest compression device to deliver chest compressions substantially downward into the chest at a preferred force and/or at a preferred stroke rate,

wherein the chest compression device is fixed in position relative to the chest of the patient.

41. (Original) The apparatus of claim 40, wherein the chest compression device provides a force substantially perpendicular to the chest of the patient.

42. (Original) The apparatus of claim 40, wherein the chest compression device is electrically actuated.

43. (Original) The apparatus of claim 40, wherein the chest compression device is hydraulically actuated.

44. (Original) The apparatus of claim 40, wherein the chest compression device contains a pressure sensor.

45. (Original) The apparatus of claim 40, wherein the chest compression device is held in a fixed position relative to the chest of the patient with one or more straps.

46. (Original) The apparatus of claim 40, wherein the straps are wrapped around the patient.

47. (Original) The apparatus of claim 40, wherein the chest device is held in a fixed position relative to the chest of the patient.

48. (Original) The apparatus of claim 39 further comprising a recoil spring removably connected to the chest compression device wherein the recoil spring lifts chest compression device during diastole.

49. (Original) An apparatus for assisting with the administration of CPR to a patient comprising:

(a) a chest plate to position the apparatus on the sternum;

(b) a manual chest compression device having a palm grip at a first end and a base at a second end wherein the base is capable of being connected with the chest plate;

(c) an electronic display module connected with the chest plate and the chest compression device to provide signals to a user.

50. (Original) The apparatus of claim 49 wherein the base of the manual chest compression device contains a pressure sensor providing a signal to the electronic display module providing feedback on applied force to the user.

51. (Original) The apparatus of claim 50 wherein the electronic display module contains a running light display connected with the pressure sensor to display an applied force from 20 to 100 pounds.

52. (Original) The apparatus of claim 50 wherein the pressure sensor is operably connected to a counter to count the number of compressions wherein the counter provides a signal to the user when a preset number of compressions is reached.

53. (Original) The apparatus of claim 49 wherein the base of the manual chest compression device contains a plurality of microswitches arrayed on the edges of the base and operably connected with the electronic display module so that compression activation of one or more switches provides a feedback signal to the user to indicate a tilt condition of the applied force.

54. (Original) The apparatus of claim 49 wherein the electronic display module contains a metronome providing a signal to the user to indicate proper timing of compressions.

55. (Original) The apparatus of claim 54 wherein the metronome is adjustable

56. (Original) The apparatus of claim 54 wherein the metronome is capable of providing 60, 80, or 100 signals per minute.

57. (Original) The apparatus of claim 49 wherein the signals provided to a user are audible.

58. (Original) The apparatus of claim 49 wherein the signals provided to a user are visual.

59. (Original) The apparatus of claim 49 wherein the electronic display module contains a data output to allow interface with a computer.

60. (Original) The apparatus of claim 49 wherein the electronic display module is positioned between the chest plate and the chest compression device.

61. (Original) The apparatus of claim 49 wherein the chest plate has an adhesive strip to attach the device to the sternum.

62. (Original) The apparatus of claim 49 wherein the manual chest compression device is stably connected with the chest plate via a socket integrated with the chest plate.

63. (Original) An apparatus for assisting with the administration of CPR to a patient comprising:

(a) a chest plate to position the apparatus on the sternum;

(b) an electronic display module to provide signals to a user located above and connected with the chest plate positioned so that the module is visible to a user during operation;

(c) a manual chest compression device having a palm grip at a first end and a base at a second end wherein the base is capable of being connected with the electronic display module and the chest plate;

(d) a pressure sensor connected with the base of the chest compression device and the electronic display module to provide a signal to the user indicating the applied force of compressions;

(e) a plurality of microswitches arrayed on said base and operably connected with the electronic display module so that compression activation of one or more switches provides a feedback signal to the user to indicate a tilt condition of the applied force; and

(f) a metronome to prompt the user with a proper compression rate.

64. (Original) The apparatus of claim 63 wherein the applied force is displayed as running light display indicating an applied force of 20 to 100 pounds.

65. (Original) The apparatus of claim 63 wherein the metronome provides 60, 80, or 100 signals per minute.

66. (Original) The apparatus of claim 63 wherein the signals are audible.

67. (Original) The apparatus of claim 63 wherein the signals are visible.

68. (Original) The apparatus of claim 63 wherein the electronic display module contains a data output to allow interface with a computer.